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Economic and environmental questions: science and technology for development

Programme budget implications of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifth session

Draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

A. Request of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

1. In its report on its fifth session, held in Geneva from 28 May to 1 June 2001, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the following measures with programme budget implications (see E/2001/31, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III):

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Taking into account* the fact that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its mandate, is the coordinator of science and technology activities within the United Nations system:

"1. *Decides* that the Commission should meet annually;

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"2. *Requests* the Commission to establish an open-ended working group for the purpose of analysing ways and means to improve the role and participation of the Commission in the recommendation and policy-making process of the United Nations system on science and technology issues, with the aim of working towards the strengthening of the Commission. The Working Group should submit to the next session of the Commission concrete measures for adoption:

"..."

2. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is currently composed of 33 members and holds biennial one-week sessions. The Commission receives specialized and technical advice from ad hoc expert panels that meet between sessions of the Commission to examine specific issues of science and technology for development.

B. Modifications of the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

3. The programme of work, under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, would be modified as follows:

Subprogramme 2

Investment, enterprise and technology

Paragraph 11A.31

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(iv) Commission on Science and Technology for Development

a. Substantive servicing

Replace "Sixth session of the Commission, and its four expert panels (34)" with "Sixth and seventh sessions of the Commission, and its four expert panels (44)".

b. Parliamentary documentation

Replace "Four reports to the Commission at its sixth session; and four reports to expert panels of the Commission (8)" with "Four reports to the Commission at each of its annual sessions; and four reports to expert panels of the Commission (12)".

C. Estimates of resource requirements

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution

4. The activities called for under the draft resolution would entail additional resources for the annual meeting of the Commission under operative paragraph 1 as indicated in paragraph 8 below. It should be noted that the Commission did not indicate an increased number of meetings for the ad hoc expert panels.

Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution

5. It is foreseen that the Bureau of the Commission will decide in November 2001 the composition of the open-ended working group that would analyse ways and means to improve the role and participation of the Commission in the recommendation and policy-making process of the United Nations system on science and technology, with the aim of working towards the strengthening of the Commission. The working group would submit to the next session of the Commission concrete measures for adoption.

6. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Commission, the full cost of the additional resource requirements would be as follows:

	(US dollars) 2002
Section 11A, Trade and development	
Travel of 33 members of the Commission in 2002	115 500
Section 2, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services	
Meeting services	
(10 meetings, languages A, C, E, F, R, S)	41 700
Pre-session documentation	
(4 documents, 25 pages/document, languages A, C, E, F, R, S)	117 700
In-session documentation	
(1 document, 2 pages, languages A, C, E, F, R, S)	4 300
Post-session documentation	
(1 document, 50 original pages, languages A, C, E, F, R, S)	62 700
General services requirements	1 900
Subtotal	228 300
Grand total (at full cost)	**343 800**

D. Potential for absorption

7. Provisions have been included, under section 11A, Trade and development, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, for the biennial session of the Commission scheduled to be held in 2003 as well as for the ad hoc expert panels. The proposed resources under section 11A provide for travel for one representative of each member State and for the travel and daily subsistence allowance of the experts at the inter-sessional ad hoc expert panels.

8. No provision has been made in the proposed budget for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 11A, Trade and development, for the travel requirements of the members of the Commission in the amount of $115,500 relating to the holding of the additional annual session of the Commission. At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the provisions proposed for section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

9. The estimate of US$ 228,300, at full cost, for the conference-servicing costs for the additional session of the Commission are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2002-2003. Provision has, however, been included under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, not only for meetings programmed at the time of the preparation of the budget but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. As a result, no additional appropriation would be required under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

E. Contingency fund

10. As indicated in paragraph 9 above, no resources have been included under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 to cover the additional requirements of US$ 115,500 arising from the draft resolution.

11. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

12. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of $115,500 referred to above.

13. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to adopt the resolution contained in document E/2001/31, an additional provision of $115,500 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The provision of $115,500 would represent a charge against the contingency fund and as such would require a related additional appropriation.

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